



## **SPECIAL MEETING**

Ottawa Police Services Board

Minutes 54

Thursday, 17 February 2022, 1:00 PM

*Via Zoom*

**Krista Ferraro, Executive Director**

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### **Board Members:**

**Members:** Councillor E. El-Chantiry, B. Johnson, Councillor J. Leiper, D. Nirman, R. Swaita, S. Valiquet

### **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

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Ms. K. Ferraro, Executive Director, explained that given the significant changes in the Board's membership over the previous 24 hours, this meeting was being held for purposes of electing a Chair and Vice Chair. Accordingly, she requested nominations for the position of Chair.

Member Swaita moved that Councillor Eli El-Chantiry be nominated to the position of Chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board. Member Valiquet seconded the nomination.

The Executive Director called for any additional nominations. There being none, the following motions were considered:

Moved by Member Johnson

Seconded by Member Nirman

**That nominations for the position of Chair of the Ottawa Police Services Board be closed.**

CARRIED

Moved by Member Swaita

Seconded by Member Valiquet

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board appoint E. El-Chantiry as Chair of the Board for 2022.**

CARRIED

Chair El-Chantiry requested that the election for Vice Chair be delayed until such a time when the Board's seventh member be selected. Further, he indicated that he would move that Interim Chief Bell remain Chief.

CARRIED

## ITEMS OF BUSINESS

### 1. INTERIM CHIEF UPDATE ON ONGOING DEMONSTRATIONS

Chief's verbal

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Interim Chief Steve Bell provided a brief update on the ongoing demonstrations, in which he indicated that operations to safely remove the unlawful demonstrations from Ottawa streets were underway. The OPS and their RCMP and OPP partners were committed to seeing the operation through to its end. There had been a significant increase in the number of officers on the streets, and barricades had been erected. There was limited access to the downtown core. The unlawful protestors were being told to leave, and to do so peacefully and immediately. They were also being advised that they would face consequences including arrest if they chose to stay. The Service noted that individuals that ultimately refused to leave would be removed.

A question was raised regarding the safety of schools, and overall risks to community members. The Service had a 3:30 p.m. press conference scheduled,

during which they intended to go into detail with messaging and tactics for residents. The Service had been in touch with Centretown City Councillor Catherine McKenney as well as Councillor Matthew Fleury and had indicated that the safety of their residents would remain the OPS' priority. It was noted that the Councillors would be kept informed to enable communications through them to their constituents.

Board Chair El-Chantiry advised I/Chief Bell that he would remain interim chief for the time being, and that the OPS membership should be informed of the stability. Support for I/Chief Bell was expressed.

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board receive this item for information.**

RECEIVED

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

#### NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting - Monday, 28 February 2022, 4:00 PM